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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of writer.

INFORMATION NEEDED

DEAR EDITOR: What will remove the stains of benetol from bed linen? Bichloride and formaldehyde being injurious to metal, and carbolic being considered in these days useless as a disinfectant, and also objectionable because of odor, with what disinfectant can bedsteads be washed when fumigation of the room is not necessary?

Montana R. N.

NO OVERSUPPLY OF NURSES HERE

DEAR EDITOR: I wish we could make nurses see how very interesting the work is out here, for we need more help very badly. The longer I am here, the more interesting things grow.

Changsha, China. NINA D. GAGE.

LETTERS FROM NAVY NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: Seven red letter days have been marked since my last screed and great excitement has prevailed in the Island. Christmas, the arrival of the transport, New Year's day and the beginning of the measles epidemic have been epochs in our quiet life.

The home friends sent our Christmas packages on the November transport and I was made the guardian of various interesting bundles duly inscribed "Do not open until Christmas." Our native nurses were also remembered and we had the pleasure of making up packages of ribbons, laces and embroideries to be used by them for certain dress-up garments, to the attraction of which they have succumbed. On Christmas Eve the almost constant patter of little feet on our steps marked the arrival of eggs, cocoanuts, various fruits and paper flowers. These gifts came from grateful Chomorro people who have the true spirit of giving. They leave their offerings and then vanish, being compensated by the joy of the act and not desiring to hear expressed gratitude.

We had a very pleasant day on Christmas, ending with a dinner in our prettily decorated dining room. We had been busy with the general celebration, in addition to several interesting cases at the Susanna Hospital but our artistic member found time to decorate the Quarters. For the Christmas festivities a good friend in the United States always sends a box of toys for the little ones and brightly colored postals which please the older children. The commanding officer interested himself and secured a tree which was appropriately lighted and around which the gifts were massed. Every pupil in the public schools received a toy and a box of candy. These gifts were sent to the wee sick ones who could not be present, though the doctors arranged that Christmas should be a "rest"day in their treatment. Greens were obtained from the woods and we decorated the wards and mess hall; a good dinner was provided and "liberty"

was given to all the patients who could leave the wards. Our turkey was a young pig sent by a grateful patient as were also the hot rolls and a fine plum pudding. A big fruit cake came from the palace with greetings from the Governor and Mrs. C. This cake aroused the jealousy of Juan, our cook, who proceeded to concoct a rival cake of great richness to which our friends have paid the tribute of regard and indigestion.

Among my gifts was a three-piece Chomorro dress with the accessories of slippers and necklace. The native dress adds considerably to one's size and I expect to overwhelm my friends with my proportions when I don the amazing costume.

On New Year's Eve a dance was given at which those of us appeared who received the expected new frocks by the transport mail. The disappointed member consoled herself with bon bons and books from home. Of all the remembrances that came, I think books and magazines were the most acceptable. A friend sends over some periodicals from the Civil Club, but not enough to satisfy four reading-hungry women. Miss C. promises herself papers served in courses when she returns to the United States. This is just another proof that we do not appreciate our blessings until we lose them.

On New Year's day we were among those present at the reception given by the Governor and Mrs. C. The band played and good cheer was distributed among all the guests. I doubt if one could find greater congeniality than prevails in this American Colony, each member appreciating and responding to the efforts made to draw us together on common ground.

The transport had as passengers several Army nurses and two Navy nurses en route to the Philippines. We were denied the pleasure of entertaining and showing to them our happy home. Cases of measles and mumps among the passengers prevented visitors from landing and we did not even see our friends, as the ship anchored three miles off shore. In spite of the precaution, however, the measles and mumps came ashore and an epidemic resulted. Dr. E. says 3500 cases have been reported; certainly everyone who did not have these afflictions from the last visitation (26 years ago), had them this time. The native nurses succumbed at various times, the first reporting for duty the day the last one went to bed. Miss H. had to take the night watch and I was on duty from 8 a.m., until 10 p.m.; the other nurses having extra hours every other day. It was a time when everybody had to buckle down to hard labor and we did good team work. No complaints were made of the long hours and some of the medical officers expressed sincere gratitude though we did not require this to realize that our help was acceptable. We had a most interesting experience, as there were many complications resulting in curious conditions, but I think we are satisfied with one epidemic and we express our hope that the quarantine camp may remain empty.

The usual work has been resumed and goes on without much effort. It is impossible to hurry in this climate. After a period of fretful efforts to establish an energetic approach to the work in hand, our nervously active members see the futility of unnecessary activity.

The operating room and diet kitchen are nearly completed and work has been begun on the new tuberculosis hospital. The site of this addition is the top of a high hill, beautiful for situation and a breeze will always temper the heat of the sun. With these buildings completed, there must be an increase in our number to meet the demands. I often wonder if these people realize the extra burden our country has assumed in the health campaign on this Island!

Yesterday, 102 hook-worm children went home, and we are now getting everything "scrubbed down" before the next lot arrives. This is not so simple as it sounds. The work is chiefly done by the public women who are working out their fines. One day they go to clinic and we never know when they will return. Three mornings they report to the Chomorro jail. In addition there are Sundays and holidays. The day of work is, therefore, the exception. Of course some of our number handle the situation much better than others. I have reason to be grateful to the hospitals that consider executive experience quite as necessary for a nurse as the experience of actually caring for the sick. The latter attribute is instinctive with women, as a rule, but very few can direct the work of others to advantage nor do they possess the natural ability to establish order and system.

The incoming sick tots number 120, to be disposed in thirty beds and twenty-five cots. This may seem a remarkable disposition but it is really an easy problem. I am thankful, however, that the other work is light and that the nurses have had extra half days for rest. We shall begin with fresh vigor and in the improvement of these poor little mites we shall renew our thankfulness that we are members of the profession which carries comfort and alleviation of pain to those who suffer.

Guam, M. I. E. L.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

GEORGIA

THE GEORGIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE NURSES will hold its annual meeting in Savannah on May 12, 13 and 14, 1915.

INFORMATION NEEDED

DEAR EDITOR: A young man who has lost all four fingers from his left hand recently wrote to a firm which deals in artificial limbs, enclosing a drawing of his hand and asking the price of fingers or an attachment that would give him better use of his hand. The reply was that such an appliance would cost $200.

This young man works in a saw-mill and it is impossible for him to pay out such a sum, which is more than the "Company" offered to settle for when the accident occurred.

Are there no artificial hands or fingers made that a laboring man can afford to buy?

Montana. R. N.